

the Collectors rather than they come all the way to Delhi and getting the sanction.

**SHRITHAYILJOHNANJALOSE:** There were many struggles in Kerala which were part of the freedom movement. One among them is the Punnappa-Vayalar struggle in Kerala in which hundreds let down their lives fighting the oppressive regime. The State Government also has, many a time, requested to give freedom fighters pension to those who have participated in the Punnappa-Vayalar struggle. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government would consider this and provide pension for those who have participated in that struggle?

**SHRI S.B. CHAVAN:** So far as this category is concerned, it has still not been accepted as the freedom movement and that is why, it will be difficult to sanction any pension.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the delays are due to the problems at state level. Would the Minister kindly inform about the number of applications which had been received by the Central Government duly recommended by the Bihar Government and how many of them are still pending? The widows of the freedom fighters should be immediately sanctioned the pension. Earlier, they used to get the pension in their respective states after filing the affidavit. Now the procedure has been changed and they have to rush to Delhi. They have to spend thousands of rupees. I have written to the hon. Minister yesterday also and requested that widows should not be asked to come to Delhi and when affidavit is filed by them, they should be sanctioned pension at the State level. After all, what is the objection in sanctioning the pension to them at the State level?

**SHRI RAM LAL RAHI:** There is neither any provision nor any directive to call the widows to Delhi from any State, not to speak of Bihar State. When their applications are

received with proper evidence, pension is at once sanctioned to them. In cases of applications where necessary evidence is found missing a report is asked for..... (Interruptions)

**SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:** They should get their pension in Collector's office as per earlier rule.....(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do not try to raise a debate. Kindly allow him to reply to the question.

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** He has just now said in his reply that work is being decentralised.

**SHRI RAM LAL RAHI:** I would like to inform the hon. Member that 796 cases from Bihar are under consideration at present. These include cases of widows also.

[English]

### Atrocities against Women

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\*617. **SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:**  
**DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether atrocities against women are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the State Governments to check such atrocities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response thereto; and

(d) other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check these atrocities?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

AND MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MM. JACOB): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have issued instructions to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations from time to time to take effective action for prevention and detection of crimes against women. Instructions were also given regarding handing of crimes against women by the Police and the District and Police Administration.

(d) *Steps taken by the Government to Check Atrocities against Women*

1. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has been amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the provisions more stringent and effective. Further amendments to the Act are also under consideration.
2. The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have been amended by the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 1983 to deal effectively with cases of cruelty to married women.
3. Standing instructions have been issued for investigations of dowry death cases by officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police. The post-mortem is to be done by a team of two doctors and disposal of the dead body is not to be allowed without postmortem.
4. The Department of Women and Child Development have also taken measures for removal of flaws in the existing legislation pertaining to women. The National Commission on Women has been set up and assistance is being given to organisations involved in the uplift of women.

5. A number of schemes are being implemented by the Government as well as through women's voluntary organisations to make women economically independent and aware of their rights. Mass media campaigns against the social evil of dowry through the programmes of electronic media are also being organised.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in its reply to the question Government has admitted that incidents of atrocities committed against women are on the increase. In this respect the official figures do not tell the whole story. Unfortunately, in this country such incidents are not reported properly to the police stations due to fear of public slander. In the statement, Government has mentioned about the measures taken in this direction like enactment of new laws, the amendments in the existing laws, constitution of the National Commission on Women, but the cause of the rise in such incidents has not been mentioned? Is this the consequence of the fact that the laws which have been enacted for the help and welfare of women are not being implemented properly. Is it a fact that even now it is not necessary that lady police should accompany they police force whenever some women culprit is to be arrested? Is it true that Police Department is not following this direction that if some women is to be arrested; then she must not be arrested in the night as she cannot be kept in police custody in night and she has to be arrested the next morning? Is the Home Minister aware that police department is completely violating these directions and if police force itself cannot ensure the safety of women and cannot discharge its duty properly, how can it save the women from the clutches of other such citizens who commit crimes against them.

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the crimes against women

are on the increase. It is alarming to see that the increase rate is almost 104 per cent during the last decade. So, the major point to be thought of is raising the status of the women. That is one of the reason of the National Commission for Women to find out methods by which women can be made more strong and to raise their status. Of course, the instructions have been issued from the Ministry periodically to the State Governments.

As you very well know, this is actually the responsibility, and public order and police being a State subject, it is being monitored by them. We have given instructions to them.

Besides that, the Department of Women and Child Welfare has brought about certain legislation. The Dowry Prohibition Act and the Immoral Traffic Act are going to be amended. That is what I am told by the Department of Women and Child Welfare. Again commission of *Sati*, indecent representation of women, to prevent the depiction of the figure of women in a manner which is likely to corrupt public morality, all these are also being reviewed. So, a conscious effort has to be made. I agree with the questioner to reduce the crime against women.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, the hon. Minister referred to the setting up of the National Commission on Women. But its composition is such that it is more a ruling party commission. Except one member from the CPI(M), all members of that commission either belong to the Congress Party or they have their leanings towards the ruling party. The Commission is not a national commission. Will the hon. Home Minister make it a national commission?

Will all shades of opinion be represented on that commission?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Actually, I do not know the political affiliation of the people at the moment. (*Interruptions*) But I can enquire about it. (*Interruptions*) At the same

time, one thing is very certain. They are all women. (*Interruptions*)

I must request the hon. Member, through you, that the major thrust of the area of work of the National Commission on Women is through voluntary organisations. In this country, we have a large number of voluntary organisations conducted by various political parties and non-political parties. The Commission on Women are certainly going to step up their work through these voluntary organisations in the country. So, the thrust of voluntary organisations will be a guarantee about the apprehensions expressed by the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I admit that most crimes are committed by men against women, but it is also equally true that even women commit atrocities against other women. Many women have come to me and told me their tale of sorrow. Many crimes are committed by Women's Voluntary Organisations working in metropolitan cities. Some distressed women go to these organisations and narrate their problems before them and after hearing them, the women of these organisations harass them in several ways. If they express their helplessness in getting themselves enrolled as members of those organisations, they are harassed and put to difficulties in several ways. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the Government is considering to impose a ban on such organisations?

[*English*]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, if there is any specific incident pointed out by the hon. Member, I can take action. Otherwise, I cannot.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I am happy to hear that so many steps are being taken by the Government to prevent atrocities on women. So many acts are to be passed or amended. Even then, when we come to the implementation level of these

acts, it is the general opinion of the public that atrocities are increasing day by day. I think the answer for the first part of the question is also 'Yes, Sir'. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total percentage of crimes committed on women in this country, especially in Kerala.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please do not ask for statistics. I do not know whether he will have it or not.

**PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN:** I would also like to know whether the number of women culprits are also increasing in this country or not.

**SHRI M.M. JACOB:** Sir, crime against women, as compared to the percentage of the total number of cognizable crimes in this country, is only one per cent at the moment. There is an increase from 0.77 per cent to one per cent. Regarding Kerala, I have got the figure here. The percentage of crimes against women in Kerala is 1.8.

**PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN:** I asked whether women culprits are also increasing or not.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Crimes by women is on the increase or not.

**SHRI M.M. JACOB:** Crimes against women and crimes by women, both are on the increase proportionately.

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA:** My question relates specifically to the Home Ministry. One of the worst crimes committed against women is the wide scale racket in trafficking with women, particularly girls. Now, this came to the public eye last year when the girl Ameena from Hyderabad was being taken away. Now, at that time, some of us had wanted the Home Ministry, in consultation with the States, to take certain measures so that inter-state and international racket in trafficking of women and children may be prevented. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of our appeal once again and I would like to ask him whether

they would consider taking any measures, in consultation with the States, to expose these rackets in trafficking with girls and women and whether certain steps would be taken to apprehend the criminals to stop these rackets.

**SHRI M.M. JACOB:** Sir, the Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act, about which the hon. Member was referring, is administered by the Women and Child Department. Ameena's case comes under that.

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA:** Will he consider taking any special measures in this regard?

**SHRI M.M. JACOB:** Regarding the second point which the hon. Member raised, the Home Ministry is aware of this problem, we are taking stringent measures and we are also in touch with the State Governments. We will be able to come out with more effective measures.

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN):** I would like to submit that this representation was received by me and we have sent that to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and I am in full agreement with the hon. Member. We will have to devise some innovative methods to expose all the agencies which are trafficking with women and children.

**SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:** Sir, I appreciate the initiative taken by Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Minister of State for Human Resource Development for sensitising the legal forces, i.e., the police forces which are handling such cases on atrocities towards women. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the apathy of this legal machinery towards cases on atrocities against women has some hand in the increase of such cases. If so, what measures are they taking to correct this?

**SHRI M.M. JACOB:** As I stated earlier, this is being looked after by the State. We are only monitoring it and at the same time giving instructions to various States. There is noth-

ing to show that the legal machinery is totally ineffective. But there are areas where it has to be strengthened. That is why I mentioned that some of the laws are being reviewed and some of the laws are going to be amended.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Assistance to Earthquake Victims of Turkey

\*618. SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY:  
SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI  
BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have taken any decision regarding assistance to the victims of recent earthquake in Turkey; and

(b) if so, the kind, quantum and value of the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Government have decided to contribute relief supplies valued at Rs. 75 lakhs to Turkey for the victims of the recent earthquake. The supplies will consist of medicines and blankets.

### Import of Seeds

\*619. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and criteria laid down by the Government for import of various varieties of seeds enlisted under Open General Licence by individuals/organisations,

(b) whether minimum/maximum quantity of various seeds to be imported by individuals/organisations is fixed; and

(c) the countries from which these seeds can be imported?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR): (a) A new Export and Import Policy was announced on the 31st March, 1992, valid for a period of 5 years from April, 1992 to March, 1997. In terms of this Policy there are two provisions for import of Seeds viz:—

1. (i) Seeds of vegetables, flowers and plants; tubers and bulbs of flowers;
 

(ii) Cuttings, saplings, budwood, etc. of flowers;
2. Plant, seeds and other plant material.
3. Seeds referred to at S. No. (1) above are freely importable. Seeds referred to at S. No. (2) are importable against specific Import Licence to be issued on the re-commendation of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, subject to the PQFS Regulations.

(b) For the purposes of seed imported for trials certain quantities have been fixed